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STRATEGY RESEARCH PROJECT

WAR 2010: THE EMERGENCE OF THE WILD CARD SCENARIO

BY

COLONEL VICTOR M. ROSELLO United States Army

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USAWC STRATEGY RESEARCH PROJECT

War 2010: The Emergence of the Wild Card Scenario

by

Victor M. Rosello, COL, USA

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ABSTRACT

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This research paper explores the possibility of using prophecy-based predictions to create worst case scenarios or "wild cards," when examined within the context of current trends and indicators of world threats. Based on the interpretations of some of the more popular prophecies, a chilling scenario develops in which China plays a prominent future role in conjunction with its ally, Iran. This paper provides options on how these worst case scenarios can be employed in assisting the US armed forces to prepare for a potentially cataclysmic future. Secondary themes addressed are the dilemmas confronting military professionals presented with prophecy-based predictions and the adequacy of the threat-based analysis system to prepare the US armed forces for future conflict in a wild card scenario.

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I. BUILDING PARADIGMS FOR AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

The bay-trees in our country are all withered and meteors fright the fixed stars of heaven; The pale-faced moon looks bloody on the earth and lean-looked prophets whisper fearful change.

Shakespeare, King Richard II

As the world approaches the Millennium, it enters a potentially grim period in its life span. Religious and mystical prophecies foretell this to be the most critical period in the history of Mankind. Prophecies abound with predictions of cataclysmic natural disasters and devastating wars. What does it all mean? Are there actual threats? Should these revelations be of concern to policy makers? Should the US armed forces take steps now to confront the challenges posed by the magnitude of predicted destruction? Or is it safe to presume that prophecies are merely flights of the bizarre imagination?

So the issues should not be quickly cast aside, for these questions deal with the theme of an uncertain future. Unfortunately, the future is a topic claiming many subject matter experts, but in reality there is no single competent authority. The future serves no master.

This research paper develops a new "paradigm" for viewing the future. This is accomplished by taking a highly controversial source of information -- prophecies -- and treating them as a genre of open source intelligence (OSINT). So, the purpose of this research paper is to present some "worst case" scenarios based on interpretations of these prophecies and propose options for dealing with them.

The idea that prophecies may be a tool for identifying a future crisis or developing worst case scenarios is certainly not an innovation. Overall, it complements what futurist John L. Petersen refers to as "wild cards":

Some revolutionary events, which we call *wild cards*, will inevitably occur. Wild cards have a low probability of occurrence but a very high impact. Although some wild cards are so catastrophic that they cannot be realistically planned for, we need to raise the possibility that they *can* happen and provide a framework from which to assess upcoming events.¹

One clarification bears mentioning. This analysis is not intended to be a substitute for scientifically derived methods of strategic intelligence collection and analysis. Rather, this study serves to expand our field of vision of the future. Incentive to peer critically into the future or to develop individual hypotheses of future threats may be a positive byproduct of this kind of inquiry. Additionally, analyses of these worst case scenarios presents interesting cases for consideration in the identification of potential threats that could challenge the efficacy of strategic models such as <u>Joint Vision 2010</u> or <u>Army Vision 2010</u>. After all, the basic message of prophecies challenges the optimistic view that our future threats will be limited to two "nearly simultaneous" major regional contingencies or conflicts (MRC), or somehow confined to military operations other than war (MOOTW) as the US maintains peace in a benign tomorrow. Selling such skepticism, however, is the most serious obstacle to dialogue. Logically, there are reasons for this.

II. CONFRONTING THE DILEMMA

Typically, discussions of religious, mystical, or unscientific predictions present most military professionals with an uncomfortable dilemma. On one hand, prophecies describe intriguing, thought-provoking future events. But, on the other hand, they come from "irrational" sources. This irrational nature of prophecies forms the crux of the problem. It is impossible to analyze their irrational sources using empirical methods or the military decision-making process. As a result, prophecies are generally dismissed with disdain—not worthy of serious strategic attention.

Further, conflict develops when prophecies challenge belief systems that shape an individual's opinions or perceptions of truth and reality. Yet, these same belief systems define an individual's notions or opinions of the future.

The dichotomy between religious faith and reason may generate an internal conflict in military professionals who are devoutly religious. Despite these polarizing forces, in most cases soldiers reach a compromise. When a field grade officer with thirty years of service was questioned on his belief of Christian end-of-the-world prophecies, he stated that he believed that these prophecies would be fulfilled. However, there was nothing that he or anyone could do about it, because no one would survive the catastrophes predicted.

This compromise of convenience is made because the profession of arms, by its very nature, requires us to think about future wars. The inquietude resulting from contemplation of a doubtful future compels military professionals to use every available source of information in their attempts to elucidate the uncertainties of tomorrow and to judge their impact on the military. However, as the professional officer indicated, if

predictions cross into the realm of religion, religious belief in prophecies does not automatically translate to belief that these predictions can be dealt with on a professional level. Soldiers may enact a kind of personalized separation of state and church. This understandable avoidance of the issue complicates the presentation or packaging of this theme in a way that would make it attractive, appealing, or even acceptable as a serious inquiry to the military professional.

To be of any practical value, prophecies must be examined as hypothetical possibilities. They should not be judged by their feasibility or probability. Doing so, the professional deliberately bypasses the obstacles that develop from the application of logic or prejudgment to the prophecies. But upon viewing them as hypothetical possibilities, we can move directly to the essence of their predictions. Understanding the impact and implications of prophesied events is an important first step in creating an awareness of future worst case scenarios. Assessing the probability of the future by positing "killer phrases" at every turn can only lead to the generation of endless speculative arguments, or worse, to no discussion at all.

III. WHAT IS NEXT AND WHO IS RIGHT?

What is next? I do not know. We cannot predict. We are, however, relatively safe in predicting that in the next decade we can expect that the strategic environment will be dynamic, uncertain and unstable.⁵

General Gordon R. Sullivan Former US Army Chief of Staff At first glance the entire discussion of viewing the future through the eyes of prophets may appear too esoteric or may seem to lack relevancy to the serious military professional. However, prophecies of an Armageddon directly impacts on a central issue important to all military organizations: the question of whether the US armed forces are correctly oriented, organized, postured, or budgeted to take on the challenges of a still ambiguous and unpredictable future.

But as a result of the uncertainties facing our military and its ambiguous vision of the future, we lack credible organizational focus. As mentioned in a previous section, despite the proliferation of official documents (National Strategic Strategy, National Military Strategy, Joint Vision 2010, Army Vision 2010, etc.), the specific threats or types of conflict that the military should be preparing for are still generally unknown. Are

we still in search of focus? General Colin L.Powell, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shared General Sullivan's frustration:

Though we can still plausibly identify specific threats -- North Korea, a weakened Iraq - - the real threat is the unknown, the uncertain. In a very real sense, the primary threat to our security is instability in being unprepared to handle a crisis or war that no one expected or predicted.⁶

In stark contrast to this view, the current political, post-Cold War view of the future is relatively optimistic and confines itself mostly to a worst case of two nearly simultaneous MRC's. There is an obvious, but important, reason for this. Since currently no single adversarial threat or major peer competitor has replaced a dissolved Soviet Union, many politico-military analysts have convinced our key decision-makers

that the future will require quickly executed peacetime contingencies, counter-narcotics operations, humanitarian assistance, and peacekeeping operations. Rather than debate this issue, policy makers have conveniently answered the siren's hypnotic, but dangerous, call for peace by capitalizing on the political popularity and economic attractiveness of reduced defense budgets. The Free World's enormous sigh of relief at the end of the Cold War was quickly followed by the sonic boom of defense cuts. What is most disturbing is that for a future that remains a virtual mystery, these decisions could turn out to be dangerously costly, rather than truly cost effective.

Cost effectiveness is the rationale for reducing conventional forces and nuclear arsenals, while placing more responsibility on peacekeepers or special operations forces as the panacea to the future defense needs of the US. Based on current trends, there is no reason to doubt that the likelihood of brush fire engagements is greater than of a major world war.

The fallacy of this strategic argument is that brush fires do not constitute a major national security threat. Like that of any great world power, the security of the United States must not be based on today's presumption of relatively innocuous unconventional threats or limited wars that provide the convenience of being waged "nearly simultaneously." Rather, our security must be based on the presumption of the worst case: a major world war waged simultaneously on multiple fronts with unrestrained use of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.

Amid the ambiguity created by today's international events, the difficulty of developing a credible argument to support such a plausibility is compounded. This new

threshold requires unbiased thinking, clear fields of vision, and innovative ways to preclude overlooking the unpredictable or potentially unforseeable. This, of course, is why "out-of-the box. thinking" is required. It permits a no-holds- barred approach, which can produce some startlingly controversial results. Out-of-the-box thinking generates some rather bizarre and unconventional views of the future that make "wild cards" extremely useful in the first place.

IV. OF NUCLEAR HOLOCAUST, THE APOCALYPSE, AND DOOMSDAY

Woe, woe, woe to those who dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets which the three angels are about to blow.

Revelation 8:13

In discussions of future conflict, the prophecies from the Holy Bible's book of
Revelation (New Testament) rank as the most universally read and debated of all time in
the Western World:

No part of the Bible is more controversial than the book of Revelation, or, as it is often called, the Apocalypse. For eighteen hundred years it has given rise to conflicting interpretations, and in the late twentieth century it is as controversial as ever.⁷

The obvious problem with introducing the Bible into strategic discussions is its seeming inappropriateness. Immediately, defensive shields are raised. It is difficult to cite the Bible and not be stereotyped as a religious fanatic, let alone to be regarded

someone who can be taken seriously by scientifically minded individuals in a discussion of military affairs.

To overcome such prejudices, we must temporarily set aside the religious significance of Revelation. Then perhaps we can assess the impact of its predictions from a strictly military perspective. Granted, this in itself is a monumentally difficult task since the Bible today is fraught with centuries old debates -- often quite heated -- over the role of symbolism. Nevertheless, since our objective is to expand the field of vision by examining prophetic future scenarios, we need not rely on the definitive word of Revelation: The image of global catastrophe itself will suffice.

An initial reading of Revelation produces some spectacular visual imagery of military significance: "Hail and fire mixed with blood are hurled down upon the Earth" (Rev. 8:7); "a third of the world is burned up; a third of all trees are burned down; and every blade of green grass is singed" (Rev. 8:7); "something like a burning mountain is thrown into the ocean" (Rev.8:7); "a third of all boats destroyed" (Rev.8:7); "a third of the creatures in the sea are killed" (Rev. 8:9); "the stars fall from the skies toward the Earth" (Rev. 8:12); "swarms of locusts appear" (Rev. 9:4); "a 200 million man army forms" (Rev. 9:16); "the waters of the great Euphrates River dry up" (Rev. 15:12); "a battle at the Hebrew place named Armageddon" (Rev. 15:16); "an earthquake begins, such a giant one that never since humanity was born had the earth seen an earthquake so huge" (15:18); "in one hour she [Babylon] has been laid waste" (Rev. 18:19). Is this symbolic language? Or does it portend the literal devastation of the world? These chilling images provide a basis for interesting scenario development.

Consider a reference to a 200 million man army (Rev.9: 16). Some experts believe that this may describe a fully mobilized Chinese army. Mention of China quickly triggers concern internationally. Among these, current US political assessments point to China as the next most probable peer competitor to the US, probably within the next ten to fifteen years. In fact, many prominent experts and public officials are already voicing their concern that the US will be involved in future armed conflict with China.⁹

The vision of China as a peer competitor is intriguing. If China does embody the Bible's reference to a 200 million man army, it would certainly be one of few countries in the Asian continent capable of mobilizing its population base to produce this number of military and paramilitary forces. In the context of current world trends, a xenophobic China has stood aside carefully watching the two primary super powers, the US and the former USSR, ally and voluntarily demobilize and disarm. Meanwhile, China sends clear signals of its bellicosity by testing a one megaton underground nuclear device; by taking deliberate military actions in response to Taiwan's national elections; and by continuing to supply nuclear fissile parts and illegal arms to Pakistan and Iran. Additionally, China's military modernization program and current acquisitions of military hardware may already be a clear indication that China is actively pursuing the role as the next super power, or has expansionist intentions.

What could be the catalyst? Is China willing to pull off a Tiananmen Square-like assault on the international community for the sake of establishing Asian dominance?

Could famine or a new population explosion force China to invade other countries in search of more arable land or new economic horizons? Is the US/Russian rapprochement

perceived by a paranoid China as a threat to its future security? Or could the combined effects of worldwide natural disasters cause China to take actions out of sheer desperation or to improve its world standing? To answer these questions, the world must carefully scrutinize every Chinese move during the next few years in the hope that those indicators do not point to the state of events described in Revelation.

In summary, for the purpose of this discussion the prophetic theme of most interest is the possibility of extreme violence and massive destruction. But, what about catastrophic natural disasters, such as a killer earthquake or massive flooding?

V. NOSTRADAMUS AND THE COMING OF WORLD WAR III

A scythe joined with a pond in Sagittarius at its highest ascendant. Plague, famine, death from military hands; the century approaches its renewal.

Michel de Nostradamus

After the Bible, the most controversial source of predictions of future wars are the prophecies of Michel de Nostradame, or Nostradamus, as he is commonly known today. He was a 16th century French physician and prophet who recorded numerous revelations and visions of the future. ¹¹ Unfortunately, like those in the Bible, his descriptions of the future are also open to wide interpretation. ¹² His prophecies are also structured in quatrains in the French language which has led to debates over literal translations. He envisions many scenarios. Some of the more militarily relevant are listed in Annex A.

Interpreters stipulate that one noteworthy aspect of his prophecies is the repeated reference to a major world confrontation instigated by a Far Eastern nation.

Coincidentally, his references are strikingly similar to the Bible's reference to China. He also notes strong and repeated references to Iran.

The following compilation is an examples of worst case scenarios developed from various quatrains of Nostradamus. It represents the unique aspects of viewing the future without restriction:

A series of limited scale conflicts ultimately lead to a superpower confrontation of unparalleled magnitude, eventually resulting in a nuclear exchange between the US/Russian coalition and China. This all begins when ethnic unrest spills over from the former Yugoslavian states into Greece and Turkey, resulting in fighting between these allies. A crisis response from NATO and the UN provides some relief, followed by some limited political initiatives. Meanwhile in Southwest Asia, Iran invades north into Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Eastern Turkey. Subsequently, the Gulf of Hormuz is sealed off by the Iranian Navy as all key ports in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the Gulf States are hit by chemical agent-filled SCUD ballistic missiles -- effectively shutting these down. All US prepositioned stocks afloat and on ground are contaminated. China comes to the support of its Iranian ally by sending troops and equipment. After a concerted US, UN, and NATO response to the Iranian crisis, China decides to invade to the west. A massive European mobilization assists the US and NATO to unite with Russia and its former republics to counter the Chinese invasion. China continues the attack and presses west through Iran, Turkey, Greece, and the Yugoslavian states. A new front emerges as a North African nation, perhaps Libya, strikes out across the Mediterranean Sea to attack
Italy, Sardinia, or the Vatican. It is unclear whether these are direct or terrorist attacks.

Compounding this scenario are catastrophic natural disasters of unprecedented magnitude worldwide. Major US cities are devastated. The US/Russian coalition scores a final victory, but with massive military and civilian casualties. The Chinese drive is not easily stopped.

Bottom line: Both the Bible's and Nostradamus' prophecies forecast cataclysmic events characterized by natural disasters and major global conflict.

VI. PREPARING FOR "THE BIG ONE"

When the hurly-burly's done, when the battle's lost and won.

Shakespeare, Macbeth

The plethora of wargaming scenarios that could be developed from these prophecies opens a gold mine of possibilities. But consider the impact of such prospects on the military establishment as a whole. How should senior military professionals deal with the prospect of all-out global war?

One option is to dismiss the entire topic altogether. Another option is to treat prophecies as a source of useful scenarios to analyze or to template the future, in conjunction with current world events. A third option is to assess prophecies as having a high probability of occurring and regarded as seriously as we currently regard MOOTW or the two MRC scenarios.

The first alternative requires worldwide intelligence collection systems and national level predictive intelligence analysis to be maintained in support of strategic indications and warnings of future conflicts. National intelligence analysts continue to provide future predictive intelligence assessments based on available knowledge of potential adversaries today. On the downside, the present lack of focus on a future peer competitor would continue. To fill this void, military training would be based on contingency operations and force projections executed by a downsized active duty force against an adversary still identified as potentially being Iraq or North Korea.

The second alternative would reflect the belief that prophecy-based Asian, Middle Eastern, Southwest Asian, or Southern European scenarios are worth wargaming. As a result, new assessments of threat probabilities would develop based on a new framing of the situation or the creation of strategic situational templates. Further study and research would be devoted to prophecies in general. Again no fundamental change would be incorporated in the training of our armed forces or focusing on the threat.

The third alternative would center on the possibility that these prophecy-based scenarios have a greater than zero probability of occurring. As a result the US armed forces must prepare for worst case scenarios. This process would commence with a basic question. If the US had absolute proof that it would be at war with Iran and China sometime within the next ten to fifteen years, what could be done militarily today to prepare for this conflict? Strategically, accepting China as the most dangerous future peer competitor helps focus the US armed forces, much like the Cold War focus on NATO forces' containment of the USSR. Current training and operations priorities of the

US armed forces could be aligned into the operational posture needed to counter the threat that prophecies predict to be the next major peer competitor. A few military options are presented:

First, accept the fact that the US cannot handle a scenario like this alone. This scenario would bring new meaning to the importance of coalition warfare. The strengthening and expansion of NATO and the move to incorporate former Warsaw Pact and Soviet Bloc members would have to stay on track. A NATO/Russian alliance would foster a league of European nations acting as a security force against Southwest Asia and China. Combined NATO or US military field training exercises in Russia and Eastern Europe would proceed accordingly. The navies and air forces must train together. Integration of allied training in the Pacific Rim could not be overlooked, particularly with Australia, Indonesia, Thailand, South Korea, and Japan. The possibility of bringing the Vietnamese into a closer alliance might also be explored. As unthinkable as it sounds, nuclear options may be examined. Unified commands should develop contingency plans and wargame US/Russian and NATO responses to this potential threat. Multinational command relationships must be established and maintained. If the prophecies are credible, the future survival of the US and Europe may depend on making preparations today.

In the meantime, China should be carefully watched and analyzed. Social or economic upheaval in China should be monitored; Chinese military arms sales, advisory support, or heightened political and economic participation in Southwest Asia, particularly with Iran, needs also to be monitored. China's ongoing testing of megaton

nuclear devices and its overall nuclear arms build-up should serve as obvious indicators of potential aggressive intentions. Since the Middle East or Southwest Asia may serve as catalyst for Chinese involvement, continued scrutiny of all players in the region must be maintained.

Finally, continued emphasis on NBC training at all levels must continue. Research and development plans to upgrade and field test NBC outer garments and improved detection and decontamination gear should be emphasized.

By focusing on this major threat, instead of peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance, the armed forces can maintain relevant combat readiness to counter future threats to the US mainland. It seems ironic that with a change of focus in the way we think about future war, the readiness focus can be maintained at a level necessary to counter the degree of threat predicted.

But one thing must be pondered as we prepare to counter such a momentous threat:

The dilemma over the extent of US military involvement in domestic crisis while

simultaneously engaged in an MRC. Contingency plans have already been developed for
the use of CONUS-based active and reserve military units in response to predicted

widespread domestic crisis, disaster relief, and the restoration of law and order. The

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is prepared to respond to prophesied

massive damage and numerous casualties. Disaster relief organizations are prepared for
worst case scenarios resulting from wide-spread natural disasters. But what if the
military forces are away from the US mainland when the "Big One" hits?

Seismologists today are more closely examining the possibility of a giant earthquake hitting either California's San Andreas fault area or the Midwest's New Madrid fault.

The issue may no longer be a question of "if," but of "when." The Department of Defense might ponder these consequences and develop contingency plans to handle a large earthquake affecting a major portion of the US mainland, while simultaneously involved in an MRC. Putting this scenario in perspective requires envisioning the proportionate military response required by a combination of Los Angeles riots and Florida/Hawaii hurricane damage multiplied by a factor of, as much as, ten. Sustained domestic operations of this magnitude would put unprecedented stress on US military forces already deployed overseas.

VI. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

And 'mid the tumult Kubla heard from afar ancestral voices prophesying war.

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Kubla Kahn

Viewing prophecies as real threats is distressing, to say the least. But what are the chances that these events will occur? As John Petersen observed, "[w]ild cards have a low probability of occurrence but a very high impact." Even with only a greater than zero probability of occurring, "we need to raise the possibility they can happen and provide a framework from which to assess upcoming events." ¹⁴

Strategically, prophecies offers us worst case scenarios. They assist in creating a framework from which to assess upcoming events through their incorporation in the indications and warning process for strategic intelligence analysis.

Should such "information" be used for other purposes? It is unprecedented to formulate contingency plans relying strictly on prophecy-based scenarios. However, if one were to set aside these constraints and rely on wild card scenarios for future planning, then the force structure and training focus of the US armed forces would have a dual focus. One focus would center externally on a large scale conventional or nuclear war in the Middle East, Asia, and Southwest Asia. The area of main focus would be an Iranian attack in the Persian Gulf and a major Chinese invasion against the West. The second focus would be internally on the mission of domestic disaster relief operations in response to cataclysmic national disasters.

Farfetched? During a recent interview LTG Patrick Hughes, the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, identified China as "the key long term security concern facing the United States":

In our judgment [he stated] it will take at least a decade before China can acquire and integrate these new [military] capabilities. Beyond that time frame, however, China will have real potential for significant increases in military effectiveness. 15

General Hughes called China "one of the few powers with the economic, political, and military potential to emerge as a large scale threat to US interests in Asia over the next 10 to 20 years." 16

Who needs prophecies? Regardless of what decisions are made on future US military force structures, defense budgets, training, and threat focus, the nuclear clock may once again start ticking. If "ancestral voices prophesying war" are any indication, this time

the hands of the clock might not be detained. War 2010 and its cataclysmic aftermath may already be slowly approaching.

ANNEX A. THE QUATRAINS OF NOSTRADAMUS

The following quatrains are representative and most applicable to apocalyptic scenarios and future conflict. Possible interpretations and scenarios are provided in parenthesis. The translated quatrains and page numbers listed are taken from Erika Cheetham's, The Prophecies of Nostradamus.

I. The Next Great War

1. I. 16, page 16 (possible war towards the end of the century)

A scythe joined with a pond in Sagittarius at its highest ascendant. Plague, famine, death from military hands; the century approaches its renewal.

2. I. 50, page 46 (A ruler from the East?)

From the three water signs will be born a man who will celebrate Thursday as his holiday. His renown, praise, rule and power will grow on land and sea, bringing trouble to the east.

3. I. 87, page 63 (possible attack on New York City?)(The World Trade Center bombing?)

Earthshaking fire from the center of the earth will cause tremors around the New City. Two great rocks will war for a long time, then Aretusa will redden a new river.

4. I. 91, page 65 (possible future war affecting America?)

The gods will make it appear to mankind that they are the authors of a great war. Before the sky was seen to be free of weapons and rockets: the greatest damage will be inflicted on the left.

5. II. 41, page 88 (Nuclear war?)

The great star will burn for seven days and the cloud will make the sun appear double. The large mastiff will howl all night when the great pontiff changes his abode

6. II. 46, page 91 (Third world war toward the end of the century?)

After great misery for mankind an even greater approaches when the great cycle of the centuries is renewed. It will rain blood, milk, famine, war and disease: In the sky will be seen a fire, dragging a trail of sparks.

7. II. 89, page 111 (America/Russia Alliance?)

One day the two great leaders will be friends; their great power will be seen to grow. The new land will be at the height of its power, to the man of blood the number is reported.

8. II. 91, page 112 (Attack on the USA or Russia?)

At sunrise a great fire will be seen, noise and light extending towards the North. Within the globe death and cries are heard, death awaiting them through weapons, fire, and famine.

9. III. 60, page 146 (Asian war/Desert Storm?)

Throughout Asia there will be great proscription, also in Mysia, Lycia and Pamphilia. Blood will flow because of the absolution of a young dark man, filled with evil doing.

10. IV. 50, page 186 (America and Asia?)

Libra will be seen to reign in the West, holding the rule over the skies and earth. No one will see the strength of Asia destroyed until seven hold the hierarchy in succession.

11. IV. 95, page 202 (USA and War?)

The rule left to two, they will hold it a very short time. Three years and seven months having passed they will go to war. The two vestals will rebel against them; the victor then born on American soil.

12. V. 54, page 229 (An Attack from the East?)

From beyond the Black Sea and great Tartary, there will be a king who will come to see France. He will pass through Alania and Armenia [southern Russia and Balkans] and leave his bloody rod in byzantium.

13. V. 78, page 237 (An Alliance between USA and Russia?)

The two will not remain allied for long; within the thirteen years they give in to barbarian power. There will be such a loss on both sides, that one will bless the bark (of Peter) and its leader.

14. V. 90, page 241 (Chemical/Biological Warfare in Greece and the Balkans?)

In the Cyclades, in Perinthus and Larissa, in Sparta and all of the Peloponnesus; a very great famine, plague through false dust: it will last nine months throughout the whole peninsula.

15. VI. 21, page 257 (USA/Russian Alliance, Attack on Greece/Turkey?)

When those of the Northern pole are united together in the East will be great fear and dread. A new man elected, supported by the great one who trembles, both Rhodes and Byzantium will be stained with Barbarian blood.

16. VI. 80, page 278 (War from the East?)

From Fez the kingdom will stretch out to those of Europe. The city blazes, the sword will slash; the great man of Asia with a great troop by land and sea so that blues perse, he will drive out the cross to death.

17. VI. 97, page 283 (Bombing of New York/World Trade Center?)

The sky will burn at forty-five degrees, fire approaches the great New City. Immediately a huge, scattered flame leaps up when they want to have proof of the Normans.

18. VIII. 59, page 330 (East/West Conflict?)

Twice put up and twice cast down, the East will also weaken the West. Its adversary after several battles chased by sea will fail at time of need.

19. VIII. 77, page 337 (The Anti-Christ?)

The anti christ very soon annihilates the three, twenty-seven years his war will last. The unbelievers are dead, captive, exhiled; with blood, human bodies, water and red hail covering the earth.

20. X. 72, page 417 (China instigates a war/Taiwan/July 1999?)

In the year 1999, and seven months, from the sky will come the great King of Terror. He will bring back to life the great king of the Mongols. Before and after war reigns happily.

21. X. 74, page 417 (War in this Century?)

The year of the great seventh number accomplished, it will appear at the time of the games of slaughter, not far from the age of the great millennium, when the dead will come out of their graves.

II. Possible Scenarios of other Wars/Conflicts

22. I. 55, page 49 (Iranian War?)

In the land with a climate opposite to Babylon there will be great shedding of blood. Heaven will seem unjust both on land and sea and in the air. Sects, famine, kingdoms, plagues, confusion.

23. II. 5, page 73 (Originator of 3rd World War/Attack on Italy?)

When weapons and documents are enclosed in a fish, out of it will come a man who will then make war. His fleet will have traveled far across the sea to appear near the Italian shore.

24. II. 30, page 84 (Italy attacked by Libya or Iraq/Terrorism)?

A man who revives the infernal gods of Hannibal, the terror of mankind. Never more horror nor the papers tell of worse in the past, then will come to the Romans through Babel.

25. II. 54, page 94 (Italy attacked/Ravished?)

By a foreign people, far from the Romans, their great city will be greatly damaged by water. A girl without a greatly different estate taken by the leader, the lock not having been removed.

26. II. 60, page 97 (African political differences/a Fleet?)

Faith with Africa broken in the East, Great Jordan, Rosne, Loire, and Tagus will change. When the hunger of the mule is sated, the fleet is scattered and bodies swim in blood.

27. II. 81, page 107 (African fleet and Italy?)

The city is almost burned down by fire from the sky, water again threatens Deucalion. Sardinia is vexed by the African fleet after Libra has left Leo.

28. II. 96, page 114 (Iran attacks Turkey?)

A burning torch will be seen in the sky at night near the end and source of the Rhone. Famine and weapon; help provided too late, Persia will turn and invade Macedonia.

29. III. 31, page 133 (Arab battles?)

On the (battle) fields of Media, Arabia and Armenia, two great armies will assemble three times; near the border of Araxum the establishment of great Suliman will fall to the ground.

30. V. 22, page 217 (China?)(Italy/Libya?)

Before the great man gives up his soul at Rome, there is much fear among the foreign army. The ambush by the squadrons takes place near Parma. Then the two red ones will feast together.

31. V. 23, page 217 (African alliance?)

The two contented men are united together when most planets are in conjunction with Mars. The African leader trembles in terror. The twin alliance scattered by the fleet.

32. V. 25, page 218 (Iran/China attack?)

The Arab prince, Mars, the Sun, Venus and Leo, the rule of the Church will succumb to the sea. Towards Persia very nearly a million men will invade Egypt and Byzantium, the true serpent.

33. V. 27, page 219 (Iran attacks?)

With fire and weapons, not far from the Black Sea, he will come from Persia to occupy Trbizond [Turkey?]. Pharos [Egypt?] and Mytilene [Greek Island?] tremble, the Sun is bright, the Adriatic sea covered with Arab blood.

34. V. 31, page 220 (The Pope/Vatican and flooding?)

From the land of Attica [Greece], source of all wisdom, which presently is the rose of the world, the pontiff ruined, its great pre-eminence will be subjected and wrecked beneath the waves.

35. V. 47, page 226 (Arabs, Turkey, Greece, Hungary?)

The great Arab will march well ahead. He will be betrayed by the Turks. Ancient Rhodes will come forward to meet him and greater harm through the other Hungarians.

36. V. 48, page 227 (Fleet, Africa, Balkans?)

After the great affliction of the scepter two enemies will be defeated by them. A fleet from Africa will come forth to the Hungarians. Dreadful deeds will occur on land and sea.

37. V. 59, page 231 (War?)

The English chief stays too long at Nimes towards Spain, Aenobarbe to the rescue. Many will die through war started on that day when a bearded staff falls in Artois.

38. V.62, page 232 (War, Rome, Ships?)

Blood will be soon to rain on the rocks, Sun in the East, Saturn in the West. War near Orgon. A great evil seen near Rome. Ships sunken and the trident taken.

39. V. 73, page 236 (Church, Arabs, and Poles?)

The Church of god will be persecuted and the holy temples will be pillaged. The mother will put away the child, naked in a shift. The Arabs will ally with the Poles.

40. VI. 5, page 251 (NBC Attack?)(Sarin, Soman?)

A very great famine [caused] by a pestilent wave will extend its long rain the length of the Arctic pole. Samarobin one hundred leagues from the hemisphere; they will live without law, exempt from politics.

41. VI. 55, page 269 (Asia Minor, Black Sea?)

The becalmed duke drawing up the contract, an Arabian sail is seen, a sudden discovery. Tripolis, Chios and those from Trabzon. the duke captured, the Black Sea and the city deserted.

42. VII. 6, page 288 (Sardinia/ Corsica Conflict?)

Naples, Palermo and all of Sicily will be uninhabited through barbarian might. Corsica, Salerno and the island of Sardinia; hunger, plague, war, the end of extended evils.

43. VIII. 70, page 334 (Iraq and Hussein?)

He will enter, wicked, unpleasant, infamous, tyrannizing over Mesopotamia. All friends made by the adulterous lady, the lady dreadful and black of aspect.

44. IX. 73, page 377 (White and Blue turbans [UN forces]?)

The king enters Foix wearing a blue turban, he will reign for less than a revolution of Saturn.[29.5 years]. The king with the white turban, his heart banished to Byzantium, sun, Mars and Mercury near Aquarius.

45. IX. 91, page 384 (Plague in Greece?)

The dreadful plague at Perinthus and Nicoplis will take the Peninsula and Macedonia. It will lay waste Thessaly and Amphibolis, [near Salonika] and unknown evil, refused by Anthony.

46. X. 60, page 413 (Earthquakes in Italy and France?)

I weep for Nice, Monaco, Pisa, Genoa. Savona, Siena, Capua, Modena and Malta. The blood and sword above for a gift fire. The earth will tremble. Water an unhappy reluctance.

ENDNOTES

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² Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, <u>Joint Vision 2010</u>, (Washington: Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1996), 4. Army Chief of Staff, <u>Army Vision 2010</u>, (Washington: US Department of the Army, 1996), 6.

³ The White House, <u>A National Security Strategy of Engagement and Enlargement</u>, (February 1996), 14. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, <u>National Military Strategy of the United States of America</u>, (Washington: Joint Chiefs of Staff, 1995), 15. Greg Caires, "Reimer: Two MRC Strategy Should Be Retained But Refined," <u>Defense Daily</u> (17 January 1997), 84.

⁴ Patrick Pexton, "Future Seizes Operations Other Than War," <u>Army Times</u> (25 November 1996), 8. Bill Gertz, "General Predicts High Priority for US Peacekeeping," <u>Washington Times</u> (8 January 1997), 4.

⁵ General Gordon R. Sullivan, "Delivering Decisive Victory: Improving Synchronization," <u>Military Review</u> (September 1992), 3

⁶ General Colin L. Powell, "Let's Not Break the Force," <u>Defense '92</u> (March/April 1992), 14.

⁷ Arthur W. Wainwright, <u>Mysterious Apocalypse: Interpreting the Book of Revelation</u> (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993), cover notes.

⁸ Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza, <u>Revelation: Vision of a Just World</u> (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1991), 25, 31 and 51. Bruce M. Metzger, <u>Breaking the Code: Understanding the Book of Revelation</u> (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1993), 63-72. Eugene Peterson, <u>Reversed Thunder: The Revelation of John and the Praying Imagination</u> (San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1988), xiii. Pablo Richard, <u>Apocalypse: A People's Commentary on The Book of Revelation</u> (New York: Orbis Books, 1994), 170-173. Charles H. Talbert, <u>The Apocalypse: A Reading of the Revelation of John</u> (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press), 6-7. Robert W. Wall, <u>Revelation</u> (Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991), 32-38.

⁹ Richard D. Fisher Jr., "China's Missile Threat," <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (30 December 1996), 9. Otto Kreisher, "Top Marine Sees Challenges in the East," <u>San Diego Union-Tribune</u> (22 September 1996), 24. DeWayne Wickham, "US Beware of Looming Superpower in China," <u>USA Today</u> (31 December 1996), 9. Bill Gertz, "Beijing Flouts Nuke-Sales Ban," <u>Washington Times</u> (9 October 1996), 1. Jim Wolf, "China Practiced Taiwan Attack, US Navy Says," <u>Washington Post</u> (12 November 1996), 10. Mark Yost,

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¹⁰ Mark Yost, "China's Deadly Trade in the Mideast," <u>Wall Street Journal</u> (4 December 1996), 1/18.

¹¹ Peter N. Stearns, <u>Millennium III, Century XXI</u>: <u>A Retrospective on the Future</u>, (Boulder: Westview Press, 1996), 40.

¹² Erika Cheetham, <u>The Prophecies of Nostradamus</u> (New York: Putnam Publishing Group, 1975),_____. Jean-Charles Fontbrune, <u>Countdown to Apocalypse</u> and <u>Into the Twenty-First Century</u> (France: Cresset Books, 1992),____. Henry C. Roberts, <u>The Complete Prophecies of Nostradamus</u> (New York: Crown Publishers, 1994),____.

¹³ Center for Earthquake Information, "New Madrid Fact Page" and "New Madrid Fault System" available from http://www.ceri.memphis.edu/www/public_info/factpage. html and http://www.ceri.menphis.edu/www/public_info/faultfacts.html; internet; accessed 18 Dec 96.

¹⁴ Petersen, 288.

¹⁵ Associated Press, "N. Korea Called Top U.S. Threat," <u>Washington Times</u> (6 February 1997), 6.

¹⁶ Ibid.

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